

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions/listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-14 (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A foam component comprising a matrix formed from a polymeric material and an active ingredient selected from the group consisting of enzymes, surfactants, brighteners, dyes, suds suppressers, bleach activators, fabric softeners, fabric conditioners, antibacterial agents and mixtures thereof; wherein said component is in the form of a particle having a mean particle size of from about 50 to about 4000 microns and is adapted for stability upon contact with air and instability upon contact with water.

16. (previously presented) The foam component according to claim 15, wherein at least part of the active ingredient is released upon contact with water.

17. (previously presented) The foam component according to claim 16, wherein said component at least partially disintegrates, disperses, denatures and/or dissolves upon contact with water.

18. (previously presented) The foam component according to claim 15, comprising an elastic modulus of less than about 10GN.m^{-2} .

19. (currently amended) The foam component according to claim 15, wherein said active ingredient is further comprises an ingredient selected from the group consisting of: cleaning product ingredients, fabric care ingredients, pharmaceutical ingredients, cosmetic ingredients, and mixtures thereof.

20. (canceled)

21. (previously presented) The foam component according to claim 15, further comprising a dissolution aid selected from the group consisting of an effervescence system, a hydrotrope, a cellulosic material, a water-soluble salt, and combinations thereof.

22. (previously presented) The foam component according to claim 15, wherein said polymeric material has a glass transition temperature of less than about 50°C .

23. (previously presented) The foam component according to claim 15, wherein said polymeric material comprises a water-soluble polymer.

24. (canceled)

25. (previously presented) The foam component according to claim 15, wherein said component has a relative density of from about 0.05 to about 0.9.

26. (previously presented) The foam component according to claim 15, wherein said component comprises a series of closed cells and open cells, wherein the ratio of closed cells to open cells is at least about 1 to 1.

27. (currently amended) A process for preparing a foam component, comprising the steps of;

- a. obtaining a mixture ~~comprising~~ comprising a polymeric material;
- b. chemically or physically introducing a gas into said mixture;
- c. prior to, simultaneous with, or subsequent to step (b), contacting an active ingredient with said mixture;
- d. optionally, prior to, simultaneous with, or subsequent to step (b), contacting a dissolution aid with said mixture; and
- e. shaping the resulting mixture into particles having a mean particle size of from about 50 to about 4000 microns;

wherein the active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of enzymes, surfactants, brighteners, dyes, suds suppressers, bleach activators, fabric softeners, fabric conditioners, antibacterial agents and mixtures thereof.

28. (previously presented) The process according to claim 27, wherein prior to step (b), said dissolution aid is contacted with said mixture of polymeric material.

29. (previously presented) A method of delivering active ingredients using the foam component of claim 16, comprising the step of incorporating said ingredients into said component and delivering said component into an aqueous environment.

30. (previously presented) A method of using the foam component of claim 15 in a composition, comprising the step of incorporating said component into a composition selected from the group consisting of: cleaning compositions, fabric care compositions, personal care compositions, cosmetic compositions, pharmaceutical compositions and mixtures thereof.

31-33. (canceled)

34. (currently amended) The foam ~~element~~ component according to claim 15, wherein said active ingredients are enzymes.

35. (deleted)

36. (previously presented) The process according to claim 27, wherein said active ingredients are enzymes.

37. (deleted)